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Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. By its resolution 52/115 of 12 December 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide all the facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; invited the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an updated report on the status of the Convention. A similar resolution was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 9 April 1998 (resolution 1998/16).

3. As at 31 August 1998, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had been ratified or acceded to by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda and signed by Chile and Mexico. The Convention will enter into force when at least 20 States have ratified or acceded to it.

4. In connection with the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of its resolution 52/115, it may be recalled that a letter encouraging all States Members of the United Nations

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to adhere to international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, was sent by the Secretary-General in December 1997. A similar letter was sent by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the same date. In March 1998, a campaigner's handbook to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Migrants' Rights Convention, entitled "Achieving dignity", was produced by the International Migrants Rights Watch Committee. Additionally, a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for the Migrants' Rights Convention was convened in Geneva on 16 June 1998 by the above-mentioned Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a strategy for building and popularizing the Global Campaign to promote the ratification and entry into force of the Convention. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in and supported both initiatives.